United Nations A/66/196

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 August 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly

Letter dated 12 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached herewith.

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. Historical background

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA) was established in accordance with the Istanbul Agreement signed on 21 November 2008 by the Heads of the Parliaments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey.

2. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries was established as a result of a long-term cooperation started in 1992 when the First Summit of the Heads of Turkic-speaking States was held.

3. The rules of procedure, the regulations of the secretariat and the Baku Declaration were adopted on 29 September 2009 at the first plenary meeting of TURKPA held in Baku. The Astana Declaration was adopted at the second plenary meeting, held in Astana on 27 and 28 April 2011.

II. Principles and objectives

4. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries is an inter-parliamentary organization established to develop inter-parliamentary cooperation among its members (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey), to further promote political dialogue between its members and to create a favourable political climate for the elaboration and implementation of various initiatives aimed at safeguarding regional and global security.

5. The Baku Declaration reaffirms the common will of TURKPA members to adhere to the principles of national independence, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of State borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force, as well as to strengthen their political and economic security and develop their national economies.

III. Structure

6. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries consists of the parliamentary delegations of its members and holds its ordinary plenary sessions no less than once a year. The coordination of the activity of TURKPA is carried out by the Council of TURKPA, composed of the heads of the aforementioned parliamentary delegations or their authorized representatives.

7. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries has established the following commissions:

Commission on economic, trade and financial affairs
Commission on legal affairs
Commission on international relations
Commission on social, cultural and humanitarian affairs.

The commissions consider the issues within their competences, ensure the execution of the decisions adopted by the Council of TURKPA and its Chairperson, assess

documentation and examine proposals submitted to the commissions, adopt draft reports, recommendations and decisions as well as assign reporters.

8. The secretariat ensures the effective functioning of TURKPA, the Council and the commissions.

The Secretary General, head of the TURKPA secretariat, manages the overall activity of the secretariat.

9. The national parliaments that are not members of TURKPA and representatives of international parliamentary and other organizations may participate in the public meetings of TURKPA as observers and guests with the consent of the Council of TURKPA and by invitation of the Chairperson.

IV. Relations with other organizations

10. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries has already engaged in interaction with various international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, UNDP and UNICEF country offices at the secretariat location.

11. The TURKPA secretariat has established relations with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

12. The TURKPA Secretary General was admitted to the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments. TURKPA was granted observer status by IPU and the Parliamentary Union of OIC. Negotiations on observer status are going on with the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC. At the same time, TURKPA participates in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE and the parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process. TURKPA also attends the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

13. Ongoing interaction between the Secretary General of TURKPA and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, officials of the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC, the Parliamentary Union of OIC, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and the European Parliament contributes to the development of dialogue and cooperation and strengthens the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the world.

V. Observer status in the General Assembly

14. As an international parliamentary organization aimed at promoting political dialogue between its members, TURKPA fully adheres to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and considers inter-parliamentary cooperation as crucial for strengthening peace, democracy and economic development.

15. Granting observer status to TURKPA in the General Assembly of the United Nations would create an institutionalized cooperation, enhance the interaction between the two organizations and assist TURKPA in its efforts to encourage regional initiatives.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries,

1. *Decides* to invite the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

United Nations A/66/197

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 August 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model

Letter dated 13 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum in support of the above request (annex I) and the relevant draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) A. K. Abdul **Momen**

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

In a world in which more than 3 billion people suffer from extreme poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy, and millions live in conflict or post-conflict countries and deprivation of their fundamental freedoms and human rights, peace remains as elusive as ever.

Even though the links between peace and development, peace and disarmament and peace and non-violence are well recognized, the fact that the people and their true empowerment must be at the centre of any development efforts that aim at achieving lasting and holistic peace is often overlooked. That peace, as an essential environment in which the full potential and inherent creativity of humankind is realized for the common good of humanity, is often undermined. Recent political developments around the world have also attested to the fact that democracy and people's empowerment, especially that of women, is a basic precondition for peace, as people's liberty, equality, human rights and development are inextricably linked as essential building blocks for peace. Peace is also a precondition for humane development, a right that is violated by wars, conflicts, terrorism, deprivation or a lack of democracy, justice and equal opportunity.

This multi-dimensional, holistic and integrated concept of an innovative "people's empowerment-centric peace model" has been the vision and lifelong mission of the peacebuilding efforts and peace leadership of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, quite often referred to as "the daughter of peace and democracy". As a peace thinker and a people's leader Sheikh Hasina has been consciously promoting a multi-dimensional approach and a concept of peace that encompasses innovative peace paradigms championing "people's empowerment" and integrating interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements of peace and empowerment. These include (i) eradicating poverty and hunger; (ii) reducing inequality; (iii) mitigating deprivation; (iv) creating jobs for all; (v) including excluded people; (vi) accelerating human development; and (vii) fighting terrorism of all kinds.

A recipient of the UNESCO Peace Award 1998, the FAO Ceres Award, the Indira Gandhi Peace Award, the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Award and the gold medal of Paris-Dauphine University for her contribution to the democratization of her country and women's emancipation, Sheikh Hasina's tireless peacebuilding philosophy and efforts include a whole new range of peace reinforcers and multipliers, namely:

that peace, democracy and empowerment of the people are inextricably linked; peace is integral to humane development; global peace is the sum total of local and regional peace; peace is impossible without the removal of all sources of repression, inequality and deprivation; peace is impossible without alleviation and eventual eradication of poverty and economic disparity in a world of opulence; peace is impossible without institution-building on human rights, constitutional rights and justice; peace is impossible without true empowerment of women, political, economic and social; peace is impossible without a secular mindset and embracing diversity and multi-ethnicity; peace is impossible without including the marginalized; peace is impossible without job creation; peace is impossible without

transparency and accountability of Governments to citizens and a total respect for the rule of law.

Driven by this well-defined peace philosophy Sheikh Hasina throughout her life and her political career and state leadership propagated beliefs such as "all men and women should be treated as being morally and ethically equal", "human capabilities are unlimited" and "unlimited human capabilities can be realized through peace".

Inspired by these ideals and beliefs Sheikh Hasina set some exclusive examples and best practices for people's empowerment and development-centred peacebuilding efforts nationally, regionally and globally. She created the first-ever peacebuilding opportunity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh by signing the first local Peace Accord in South Asia and establishing the rights of the ethnic minorities living there; successfully combated and contained terrorism, especially religious militancy and extremism in Bangladesh and set examples in the region; commissioned an independent trial of war criminals to bring justice to victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity of the 1971 War of Independence of Bangladesh; achieved the peaceful resolution of a domestic border guard mutiny; successfully fought and continues to fight poverty and empower women; found global acclaim through Bangladesh's high performance in the achievement of almost six of the eight Millennium Development Goals; enacted the first-ever law to prevent the grabbing of land from the Hindu minorities of Bangladesh and return confiscated properties with the repeal in 2010 of the Vested Property Act; fought corruption and established the national Human Rights Commission, Law Commission, Information Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission; and a national education policy that inculcates secular and meaningful education with free education up to class 12 for the girl child.

At the regional level she signed the Ganges Water-sharing Treaty and the anti-terrorism accord with India for food security and to combat terrorism in the region, promoting the anti-poverty movement in South Asia while making every effort to diffuse tension between neighbours India and Pakistan, promoting cultural cooperation and the economic integration of South Asia. She is a global advocate as well as a recognized Statesperson in the global climate change discourse for climate justice, empowering women, improving women's and children's health and fighting poverty and hunger and zero tolerance for terrorism of all kinds and the like.

The proposed "peace philosophy" of Sheikh Hasina, based on these personal, national, regional and international experiences, was disseminated to the global community of academicians, politicians, economists, peace, security and development practitioners at dedicated international seminars and conferences organized in 11 countries in Asia, Europe and the United States of America over the past nine months, where it received wide acclaim and acceptance as an innovative people's empowerment and development-centric peace model applicable for a wide range of developing countries with diverse cultural backgrounds. Such successful seminars include (a) international conference at Oxford University with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest, 27 January 2011; (b) international seminar at Stockholm University, 31 January 2011; (c) international seminar at Harvard University, 4 February 2011; (d) international seminar at Waseda University, Japan, 13 February 2011; (e) international meeting at the University of Sydney, Australia, 19 March 2011; (f) international meeting at the University of

Social Studies, Amsterdam, 25 March 2011; (g) international meeting at Shantinikatan, India, 30 March 2011.

Apart from the above, the group of eminent economists and development practitioners propagating the proposed model held briefing meetings with the Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 10 June 2011, who welcomed the "peace model" by Sheikh Hasina. Earlier, executive heads of leading specialized agencies and United Nations bodies, including FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Trade Organization as well as the President of the Human Rights Council were also briefed on the proposed peace model.

The "peace model" was presented to the European Commission and representatives of the European Union Parliament, who received the model with enthusiasm and suggested floating it at the United Nations. In June 2011, the peace model was also explained to Representatives of the United States Congress and Members of the United States House of Representatives, including Democrat House Leader Ms. Nancy Pelosi, Mr. Hansen Clarke, Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee and Mr. Chris Van Hollen. In the United Kingdom the model was explained to Mr. Alan James Carter Duncan, MP (Conservative Party) and Minister of State in the Department of International Development in June 2011. Finally at an International Convention on Sheikh Hasina's Peace Model at the University of London a resolution entitled "People's empowerment: a peace model by Sheikh Hasina" was unanimously adopted in the presence of 580 participants.

In this context, Bangladesh proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model" pioneered by Sheikh Hasina, a peace thinker and peacebuilder nationally, regionally and globally.

Bangladesh seeks the support of all fellow Member States, developing and developed, from the South and the North, to move this innovative peace model into the heart of the United Nations, the General Assembly, for further enriching it with peace thoughts and ideas for the greater and common good of the peoples of the world. This model, an original peacebuilding paradigm by Sheikh Hasina, if emulated globally, especially in developing countries but also in developed societies, will help to reduce inequality, disparity, deprivation and poverty while strengthening global efforts towards humane development and fighting terrorism.

A detailed background paper on Sheikh Hasina's peace philosophy and peace endeavours is attached for reference.*

* The background paper is on file with the Secretariat and is available for consultation.

Annex II

Draft resolution

People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Noting the crippling effects of poverty and disparity all over the globe,

Recognizing that people should be the focal point in all plans, programmes and policies,

Reaffirming that true political leaders can awaken, make aware and empower the people,

Appreciating that Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, took all her major political decisions respecting the desires of the people,

Inspired by Sheikh Hasina's thoughts on people's empowerment through peace-centric development, which includes the interactions of several interrelated broad substantive components that need to be achieved simultaneously to ensure peace, namely, eradication of poverty and hunger, reduction of inequality, mitigation of deprivation, inclusion of marginalized people, job creation for all, acceleration of the process of humane development, and fighting all forms of terrorism and religious fundamentalism,

1. *Urges* all nations in the world to give first priority in all decision-making to the aspirations and wishes of the people;

2. *Invites* all international organizations to take lessons from the people's empowerment and peace-centric development model of Sheikh Hasina in designing their guidelines and policies, the implementation of which can lead to sustainable peace and prosperity for all.

United Nations A/66/198

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 August 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

Letter dated 10 August 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Cambodia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the undersigned, have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly".

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties was launched in Manila, in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As of May 2011, membership has reached more than 340 eligible political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2008, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has also been undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in other continents, including in particular Africa.

So far the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has held six general assemblies — in Manila (2000), Bangkok (2002), Beijing (2004), Seoul (2006), Astana (2009) and Phnom Penh (2010). These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of coexisting in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia. Its Standing Committee — made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 States — has met at least twice a year since 2004. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties has also organized special conferences on key continental issues since 2008 —

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such as those of minimizing political corruption (Seoul, 2008), strengthening State capacity (Kathmandu, 2009), easing mass poverty (Kunming, 2010) and dealing with natural disasters (Kuala Lumpur, 2011).

From its inception, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the preamble to the organization's Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares the unequivocal commitment of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Representatives of the political parties that took part in the sixth general assembly in Phnom Penh in December 2010 unanimously adopted a declaration endorsing the bid for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties is also coordinating with the joint initiatives of Governments of other States Members of the United Nations towards the same objective.

We believe that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties can play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties of Asia, and those of Latin America and Africa in the future, the three continents of the emerging democracies, by aggregating and channelling to the United Nations system the views of the peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental, promoting people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations, and building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges. In addition, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties can provide support for political parties in the emerging democracies and increase their capacity to carry out at the local and national level their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

Attached are an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution regarding the item (annex II).

We have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kosal **Sea**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gyan Chandra **Acharya**
Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Libran N. **Cabactulan**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) **Kim** Sook
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

(*Signed*) **Le** Hoai Trung
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Historical background

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched by the leaders of 46 political parties of Asia in Manila in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As at the end of May 2011, its membership has reached more than 340 eligible political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia.

So far, six general assemblies of ICAPP have been successfully held, in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009 and Phnom Penh in 2010, and they have brought together political leaders in the region to exchange opinions and communicate with each other, and helped to strengthen unity among Asian States and propel Asia along the road towards stability and prosperity.

The ICAPP Standing Committee, made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 States, has met at least twice a year since 2004. ICAPP has also been annually organizing special conferences on key continental issues since May 2008 — such as those on minimizing political corruption, strengthening State capacity, alleviating mass poverty and effectively handling natural disasters.

Purpose

Article 1 of the ICAPP Charter, adopted at the fourth general assembly in September 2006, stipulates the objectives of ICAPP as follows:

(a) To promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia;

(b) To enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and countries in the region;

(c) To promote regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties;

(d) To create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

Organizational structure

Membership

Article 2 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that ICAPP "shall be open to all political parties in Asia with democratically elected members in the parliaments of their respective countries, which are Member States of the United Nations". At the 5th meeting of the Standing Committee in June 2006, it was agreed to extend invitations to political parties in the Palestinian National Authority in an effort to render ICAPP activities more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in the region. At the 8th meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2008, it was further agreed to apply two criteria to the political parties in Asia to be eligible

for invitation to the future ICAPP activities: (1) political parties which have more than 1 per cent of elected seats in their parliaments; (2) political parties which have won more than 1 per cent of popular votes in their latest parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national election commissions.

According to these criteria, there are 341 political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia that are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities as at the end of May 2011.

General assembly

According to article 4 of the ICAPP Charter, a general assembly is held once every two years on a rotational basis among the members, unless otherwise decided by the Standing Committee. In principle, it is held for three working days during the latter half of the year, and is composed of an opening session, plenary session and thematic committee meetings, special workshops on specific topics as approved by the Standing Committee and a closing session.

Standing Committee

According to articles 9 and 10 of the ICAPP Charter, a Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of 18 members from an equal number of countries, was established. The members of the Standing Committee serve for two years from the end of a general assembly until the end of the following general assembly. The Standing Committee makes decisions and lays out the procedures on issues regarding the organization of the ICAPP meetings, including the general assemblies and special conferences, as well as other issues regarding other ICAPP activities and programmes.

Currently, the Standing Committee is composed of the representatives of the 18 leading political parties from 18 States representing different subregions of Asia, namely, Central Asia, North-East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, West Asia and Oceania, and has been meeting more than twice a year since 2004.

Secretariat

The permanent secretariat of ICAPP was established in Seoul by a decision unanimously taken at the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2009, and as endorsed at the fifth general assembly in September 2009.

In accordance with article 12 of the ICAPP Charter, the secretariat executes such functions, among others, as (1) maintaining and updating the list of political parties and the official website; (2) providing necessary information and assistance to the ICAPP members; and (3) establishing contacts and promoting cooperation with other international or regional organizations.

Financing

Article 8 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that the political parties hosting the general assembly shall bear the primary expenses of the general assemblies. The primary expenses include logistical arrangements, that is, conference facilities, domestic transportation and the like. The primary expenses shall not include, inter alia, international transportation to and from the location of the general assembly. For the purposes of holding the general assembly, the political parties hosting the

general assemblies may seek voluntary contributions from members of ICAPP and other organizations.

The ICAPP activities, namely the general assemblies, Standing Committee meetings and special conferences, are funded in principle by the political parties that host such events, which usually cover the costs of organizing conferences and minimum local accommodation for a limited number of representatives of political parties participating in the events.

At the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2009, it was agreed that the budget and personnel to implement the functions of the ICAPP secretariat shall be initially provided by the host country. It was further agreed that the Standing Committee will continue to discuss issues relating to the budget and personnel of the secretariat. Since 2010, the Korea Foundation in Seoul has provided funds to support a part of the secretariat activities. Other administrative budgets, including office maintenance and personnel costs, are covered by private donations.

Activities

General assemblies

So far, six ICAPP general assemblies have been held. The first was held in Manila in September 2000 with representatives of 46 political parties from 26 countries, the second in Bangkok in November 2002 with 77 parties from 35 countries, the third in Beijing in September 2004 with 81 parties from 35 countries, the fourth in Seoul in September 2006 with 92 parties from 36 countries, the fifth in Astana in September 2009 with 63 parties from 33 countries, and the sixth in Phnom Penh in December 2010 with 90 parties from 36 countries.

These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of coexisting in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia.

Special conferences

Special conferences and workshops have also been convened for the ICAPP members on key challenges that the region is facing, such as prevention of political corruption, strengthening State capacity, alleviation of poverty and dealing with natural disasters. ICAPP is preparing to host another special conference on the issues relating to poverty alleviation in China in September 2011.

Relations with other organizations

Recently, ICAPP has been trying to reach out to other regions in the world. The first joint session with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, ICAPP has been undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in Africa, in coordination with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to organizing the first trilateral meeting of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the near future.

In this regard, ICAPP will play a key and continuing role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Character of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

Although ICAPP is not an intergovernmental organization per se, the following points with regard to its legal status should be taken into consideration by the States Members of the United Nations:

(a) ICAPP is unique in nature in that it is open to all political parties regardless of their political orientation;

(b) The political parties participating in ICAPP activities are either responsible for forming the Governments in their respective countries and making most of their policies, or eligible to form future Governments depending on the results of elections;

(c) ICAPP has also been channelling to the United Nations system the results of its political debates at all levels, local, national and continental, like submitting the Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation, which was adopted at the special ICAPP conference in Kunming in July 2010, in time for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held two months later;

(d) In addition, in recent years, ICAPP has been in close cooperation with political parties in other regions, namely, Latin America and Africa, with a view to forming a global forum of political parties and, in the case of Latin America, ICAPP and the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean have been holding annual joint sessions to coordinate their activities to promote United Nations objectives.

Reasons for seeking observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

From its inception, ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the preamble to the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares the unequivocal commitment of ICAPP to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Representatives of the political parties that took part in the sixth general assembly in Phnom Penh in December 2010 unanimously adopted a declaration that endorsed the ICAPP bid for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

ICAPP will play a key and continuing role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

ICAPP can also play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of Latin America and Africa — the three continents of the emerging democracies — in the following areas:

(a) Aggregating and channelling to the United Nations system the views of our peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental;

(b) Promoting ordinary people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations and through United Nations programmes;

(c) Building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges;

(d) Providing support for political parties in the emerging democracies — to increase their capacity to carry out at the local and national level their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has been sending video messages to all major programmes of ICAPP, including the opening sessions of the fifth and sixth general assemblies, held in Astana and Phnom Penh, and the ICAPP special conference on poverty alleviation held in Kunming, and has provided valuable contributions and guidance to deliberations on the main themes of the conferences.

More detailed information on ICAPP, including the address of the secretariat, the officers and the members of the Standing Committees, can be found on its website, at www.theicapp.org.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Conference of Asian Political Parties to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.